REASONS for Raiſing the Price of Tin, at the preſent; and keeping it from falling, for the future, in the Counties of Cornwall, *and* Devon: *Together with ſome Propoſals, in order to effect the ſame, without any Offence to our Neighbours, or Prejudice to the Traders, in that Commodity.*

I. BECAUSE the adventuring Tinners are very much Impoveriſhed, and Decayed; The Price of Tin being ſo low, and the Materials, for that Trade, at ſuch high Rates, that the generality of thoſe adventuring Tinners, cannot pay Wages, maintain Themſelves, and Families, and carry on their Tin-Works as they would, and ſhould do.

II. Becauſe the poor labouring Tinners Wages, or Hire, is fallen, with the low Price of Tin, from above 30 *s.* to about 14 or 15 *s.* Nay, in ſome of the greateſt Tin-Pariſhes, the poor labouring Tinners are forc'd to keep two Doles, and to work Day, and Night, for that 14 or 15 *s.* a Month, which doth not afford them, and their poor diſtreſſed Families, a fifth part of that daily Bread, which the good Providence of Almighty God ſeems to have provided for them, in the Noble, and Ge-

808:15

nerous, Nature of the Tin, when 'tis improved to Perfection, by the beſt Art and Policy. And ſince the Running of Tin, from the Fire to the Flote, is like the Running of Malt-Drink from the Maſh-Fat into another Veſſel, and that the beſt of the Liquor runs out firſt; I am of Opinion, That the Mundick (which in all probability runs firſt from the Fire, and ſo often remains uppermoſt in the Flote) is the fineſt of the Metal; and the Oar of Mundick, is almoſt exactly like that of Silver. But, as yet, we want the Art of bringing in into its Natural Body.

III. Becauſe the County of *Cornwall*, and part of *Devon*, will be De-populated, and ſo undone; if the Price of Tin be not riſen to, and kept from falling under 3 *l.* a Hundred. A Multitude of People, in thoſe two Counties, having nothing to ſubſiſt on, but the Tin-Trade.

IV. Becauſe Tin, if riſen at home, will be the dearer abroad, and bring us the nearer to that Ballance of Trade, which we have ſo long wanted. As Tin is valued here, ſo it will be valued in other Countries. And the *Venetians*, (who value themſelves, on a Proſpect of Futurity, even at the greateſt diſtance) did (in the regaining the Weſtern Trade, which they had almoſt once loſt) lay ſo many, and ſo great Impoſitions, on their Currans, to make that Commodity the more valuable, and eſteemed, among us.

V. And laſtly, The higher the Price of Tin is, (it being a precious Commodity) the greater Honour, and Intereſt, it will be to the King, and Country. But Moderation muſt be remembered, for fear of the Conſequences of Exceſs.

HAVING

HAVING ſet forth, and ſhewn, ſome REASONS, for Raiſing the Price of Tin; I may here ſay, That the greateſt Cauſes of its falling were, The Factors, the Pewterers, the Merchants, and others, under-buying and under-ſelling one another: And if theſe Cauſes be not timely prevented by a Law, according to the Petition of the Tinners, it may be feared they will produce worſer Effects. But if the Cauſes be prevented, by Art, and Honeſty, the Effects will naturally ceaſe; according to that infallible Maxim, which makes as much for the Phyſicians of the State, as for thoſe of the Body, and the Mind.

THE Reaſons being given for Raiſing the Price of Tin, and keeping it from falling; I am, in the next Place, to ſhew how both may be effected, without any Offence to any Foreigners, or Domeſticks.

1. BUT firſt (I think) we ſhould look on the falling Price of Tin, as a Judgment from Heaven: And (as Monſieur *Mallebranch* well ſays, in his *Search after Truth*) *The Mind of Man hath two eſſential, or neceſſary Relations; the one to God, the other to himſelf.*

2. In the ſecond Place, The Tinners are to do all the Juſtice they can, to the Nature of the Tin, in the firſt Refining thereof. When the *Romans* wanted Mony (as we do now a Price for our Tin) they applied themſelves to *Juno*; her Oracle bid them *Go, and do Juſtice, and then there ſhould be no want of Mony among them.* And they finding that Effect, upon their performance of the Oracles Preſcription, they called their Goddeſs, *Juno moneta*; and Coined all the *Roman* Mony thereafter in her Temple.

17 *Car* 1. The ſeveral Charters and Priviledges of Tinners, in *Cornwall*, were confirmed, and they to be ſued only in the Stannery Courts.

3. In the third Place, The Corniſh Lawyers, and others, ſhould do all impartial, and ſpeedy, Juſtice, to the Tinners; and all that in them lies, to have their ancient Cuſtoms, Laws, and Charters, ſet Forth, Publiſhed, and Practiſed: And when they are ſo, by Command of the King, and Parliament, it will eaſe, and advantage both the labouring, and adventuring, Tinners.

4. In the fourth Place, The Pewterers are to take care, that their Tin be not corrupted, in Pewter-Plate, as our Silver hath been, in our Current Mony; to the great Diſhonour, and Diſadvantage, of the Nation. And by what Pewter I have ſeen Abroad, and by ſome that I have ſeen at Home, I am very confident, That by means of the moſt refined, and whiteſt Copper, or Braſs, or ſome other Metal, for Allay, (if not by means of its own Nature) we may find Ingenious Men in the World, that will work our Tin, ſo as it ſhall, very much, look like Silver: And ſuch I have ſeen at *Venice*, where they often melt down our courſe, allayed, Plate, to make finer, allayed, Plate, of their own. The Duty, upon our Pewter, being ſo little, and the courſe Allay ſo much, that it is cheaper to them, than fine Tin. And here, I think, with Submiſſion, it might be well, if the Statute of 25 *Hen.* 8. whereby all Strangers are forbidden to work any Pewter, or Tin, in this Nation; Or that part thereof, whereby they are ſo debarred, were repealed.

5. In the fifth Place, Such *Bounds* ſhould be ſet *(Conſenſu Mercatorum)* to the Price of Tin, that it ſhould never fall under 3 *l.* a Hundred. The Books of Rates was riſen, *(Conſenſu Mercatorum)* by *Edw.* 1. *Edw.* 3. and *Hen.* 8. although the Houſe of *Burgundy* complained of it, as being againſt the Treaty of Intercourſe. I have known many Edicts

Edicts made by the Government of *Zant* (and by Conſent, and Connivance of the Engliſh Conſul, and Factors) that Currans ſhould not be ſold, under ſuch a Price, when the Price of Currans was declining. And why is it not as reaſonable, for us, to keep the Price, of our own Tin, from falling; as it is for the *Venetians*, to lay (as they do) Foreign Fleſh, and Fiſh, under an Eſteem, to keep the Price from riſing? By which means, they keep in a great deal of Mony, from being exhauſted, and do very much eaſe the Poor, and advantage the Publick. And if we will act extraordinary Things, we muſt (like the wiſe *Venetians*) go more than an ordinary way to work.

6. An Act, to compel Retailers to ſell in Pewter Meaſures, will raiſe the Price of Tin, becauſe it will encourage the Conſumption of that Commodity. And as it will be a particular Advantage to the Tinners, and the Pewterers; ſo they ought to refine the Metal ſo much the more for it, and not to think erroneouſly, of getting more by the Corruption, than by the Purity, of Tin. There is a Tin-Work, in *Cornwall*, called *Hellanoon*, that produceth Tin; which (as ſome Pewterers have ſaid) is worth 5 *s.* a Hundred more than any other Tin. And its extraordinary worth, muſt be like that of the fineſt Silver, either for making the fineſt Pewter-Plate, or bearing the more Allay.

7. And laſtly, If the taking off the preſent Duty, on Tin, exported, will encourage the Exportation, and Conſumption, of the Commodity; then a Duty, on the aforeſaid Meaſures, will anſwer the End, and be an Advantage both to the King, and Kingdom. And if the Eſſay-Maſter-General ſhould be appointed, to Tax the Pewter, as he doth the Tin, by his Deputies, according to its Quality, and to ſtamp the fineſt Pewter (as the Sterling-Plate is ſtamped) the King, receiving a Duty thereon, would

would alſo advantage both the King, and Kingdom; For it would raiſe the Quantity, the Quality, and the Price of Tin: And the dearer all Things are (as in Cities, and Towns) the richer are the People, and the greater are the Wages of the Poor.

In the 19th of King *Hen.* 7. the Pewterers of the City of *London*, and *York*, and of all other Places, complained of Perſons, going about from place to place, expoſing Veſſels made of corrupted Pewter, to Sale, which were not worth the fourth part they were ſold for. It was thereupon Enacted, *That no Pewterer ſhould, from thenceforth, ſell, or work, any Pewter Veſſel, in any place or places, within this Realm, but that it be as good, fine Metal, as the Pewter wrought within the City of* London. And by the Statutes, of the ſame, ought to be, upon pain of forfeiting the ſame. And, alſo, it was Enacted, *That all the Pewter made, ſhould be mark'd with the Mark of the Maker thereof.* And Searchers were thereby directed, to inſpect the goodneſs of ſuch Veſſels, ſo made.

But the Pewterers Searchers, and their Marks, not ſerving the Deſign of that Act, I think (with Submiſſion) that the Eſſay-Maſter-General, of the Tin, and his Deputies, and His Majeſty's Stamps, may ſupply the Defects of the others, and much advance the Quality, the Quantity, and the Price of Tin, His Majeſty's Duty, upon that Commodity, and the Reputation, and Eſtates, of the Pewterers: For in the 25th of King *Hen.* 8. the Pewterers again complaining, did declare, That the Purity, of Tin-plate, was the Encreaſe; and the Corrpuption, the Decay of that Trade. And there is no great doubt, but the Tin, in the *Indies*, and elſewhere, will be accordingly advanced, as in the Caſe of Silver.

NOW

NOW this being the laſt time (I think) of writing about the Tin, I muſt here inform my Reader, That when I printed the firſt Propoſal, and ſent it into *Cornwall*, and *Devon*, the Tinners, in general, of both Counties, were for it; and particularly, to have a Law made, That no Man ſhould Sell, or Buy, Tin, under 3 or 4 *l.* a Hundred. And if all of them were here, in a Body, at this time, I am ſure they would petition for that very Particular.

But an honeſt Gentleman, and an adventuring Tinner, (of a good Eſtate, and a good Intention) asked me, in a Letter, *If ſuch a Law be made, what ſhall the poor labouring Tinners do, who are forc'd to ſell their Tin for* 48 s. *to buy Bread, for them and their Families?* To which I anſwered,

When Mony failed in the Land of Egypt, and in the Land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came unto Joſeph, and ſaid, Give us Bread, for why ſhould we die in thy preſence, for the Mony faileth? And Joſeph gave them in exchange for Horſes, and for the Flocks, and for the Cattle of the Herds, and for the Aſſes; and he fed them with Bread, for all their Cattle, for that Year. Gen. 47

So if our able Men, in the Counties of *Cornwall*, and *Devon*, would, upon occaſion, ſupply the Tinners, for a Year, or ſo, with Mony, in Exchange for the Tin; the Tin would ſerve them, in the like ſtead, as the Cattle did the *Egyptians*.

But if a Law be made, That no Man ſhall buy, or ſell, Tin, under 3 *l.* a Hundred; a Hundred of Tin will paſs current for 3 *l.* and be a more ſubſtantial Payment, than a Bank Bill, or a Goldſmiths Note: Provided, our able Men will

will firſt take it, upon occaſion, for good Example; which they will the rather do, becauſe then they will have it in their own Hands, and they will be able to make the moſt of it.

For *Germany* (by its Nature and Situation) cannot afford ſo good Tin, as *England*; nor ſo cheap, by much, as 3 *l.* a Hundred: And when Tin was above that Price (as well as ſince it hath been under it) we have ſupplied *Germany* it ſelf, with Tin, as well as *Holland*.

AND, as for the *Eaſt-Indies*, I muſt here acquaint thoſe, whom it doth concern, that I received the following Informations from one Mr. *Gammon*, who lives in *Crutchet-Fryers*. And ſaith,

That he Traded full 3 Years in *India*.

That he lived in *Mergen*, in the Kingdom of *Syam*, about 14 Months; which was the only Place, of Tin, he ſaw in *India*, from whence they tranſported that Commodity. And that in all the time of his being in *India*, he never heard of any Tin-Mines, in any other place, except in the adjacent Kingdoms of *Perah* and *Johr*; which Countries, together with the King of *Syam*'s, where the Tin is, makes a long narrow Tract of Land, ſomething reſembling *Cornwall* and *Devon*.

That he ſaw conſiderable Quantities of Tin, ſent from *Mergen* to *Mocha*, in the Mouth of the Red Sea; where, he has been informed, they have ſold it for *Cent. per Cent.* Profit.

That he came from *Mergen*, to *England*, in a Ship of Mr. *Whites*; which Ship was loaden with Tin, and deſigned for ſome other part of *India*: But the Companies War, with the King of *Syam*, obliging Mr. *White* to withdraw

draw from *Mergen*, in the ſaid Ship, he went to * *Acheen*, to ſeek for Proviſions to bring him home to *England*, where he diſpos'd of the greateſt part of his Tin (which coſt him, at *Mergen*, 3 *l. per Cent.*) at advantage, and ſent the remainder to *Bengall*: And to ballaſt his Ship, in the room of the ſaid Tin, he bought Lead out of an Engliſh Ship, that brought it thither from *England*, to ſell it; being the Place where it turns beſt to Account.

That he has been at *Batavia*, which is about 40 Miles from *Bantam*, and did not hear of any Tin made, either at *Bantam*, or *Batavia*; And that he has ſeen a great many Ships loaded at *Batavia*, for *Holland*, but never ſaw any Tin put aboard any of them. But their general Cuſtom was, to put Logwood in the bottom of their Ships, filling the Vacancies with Pepper; And upon that they put Mats, and then Salt-petre enough (with the Logwood) to ballaſt the Ship, and then another lay of Mats; and ſo fill up, with Baile-Goods, ſtrewing ſome Pepper 'twixt every height of Bailes. And that he is very well aſſured, that Tin may be tranſported from *England*, to a great many Places in *India*, tho' bought at 4 *l. per* Hundred, at much more Advantage, than can be made by bringing it to *Europe*, from any part of *India*, tho' bought at the cheapeſt Rate it can be had at any time there.

---

* *Note*, That *Acheen* is not above 60 Leagues from the Tin-Country; and we may ſuppoſe, that in other Places more remote, the Price is higher: And, therefore, 'tis rational to conclude, That our Corniſh Bullion would turn to a better Account for *India*, to carry from hence to *India*, than the Bullion of the *Weſt-Indies* does; and I am ſure it would be more for the Advantage of the Kingdom. And I do heartily hope, that notice will be taken of it accordingly.

And if the Dutch would take more of our Tin, and the *Eaſt-India* Company tranſport leſs of our Mony: The former would help us, as we did them; and the latter would prevent the Effects of *Camden*'s Prophecy, in his Life of Queen *Elizabeth*.

HAVING got the foregoing Account from Mr. *Gammon*, I waited upon Mr. *White*, at his Lodgings, near the *Royal Exchange*; and, confirming the foregoing Particulars, he gave me the following Account, under his own Hand.

" There is a great deal of Tin, in the Kingdom of " *Syam*, and in the Dominions of ſeveral Princes, in the " *Malayan* Country; the principal whereof are, *Jahore*, " *Perah*, and *Quedah*: 'Tis in all thoſe Places ſold by a " Weight, called a *Bahar*, which is about 390 *l.*

" The Vend of this Commodity, is into all the Coun- " tries in *India*, *Intra Gangem*, and in *Arabia*, and *Perſia*; " and ſometimes the Dutch have brought vaſt Quantities " to *Europe*.

" In *Syam* it is the King's Commodity, and ſold by his " Factors, in his Capital City *Judiiah*, at a fixed Price, be- " ing 12 *l.* Sterling *per* Bahar.

" The Dutch have made ſome Attempts to Ingroſs this " Commodity; And did contract, with the King of *Syam*, " for the whole Quantity that was produced, in one part " of his Kingdom, called *Legare*, at 9 *l. per* Bahar. And " they obliged the King of *Perah*, by force, to ſell all he " has to them. And they uſed formerly, to block up the " Port of *Quedah*, to prevent its Sale there to any but them- " ſelves, or other *Europeans*.

HAVING ſet forth the foregoing Particulars, I muſt here acquaint the Reader,

1. That I took a great deal of pleaſing-Pain, to be confirmed in the Truth hereof.

2. That

2. That I am ſatisfied, with many others, (or rather, that many others have ſatisfied me) That Markets are generally govern'd, by the firſt Market-price.

3. That two third Parts of all the Tin, we raiſe in *England*, is tranſported Yearly un-wrought, as appeared to the Committee, by an Account taken from the Cuſtom-houſe Books, beſides the Pewter tranſported; and beſides all the Pewter made, and uſed, in *England*.

4. That the Conſumption of our Tin (beſides what hath been already ſhewn) is very conſiderable: And one of the Pewterers, at the Committee, in the Speakers Chamber, did declare, That he himſelf ſold more than One thouſand Pounds worth of Tin yearly, out of his Shop, to Potters. And, if ſo, I leave it to the Nation to conſider, what a vaſt Advantage this may be towatds the Revenue of the Crown, and the Raiſing of the Kingdom, if due Uſe be made of this Commodity.

IN Fine, It is generally affirmed, That the beſt way to Raiſe the Price of Tin, is to keep it (by a good Law, and a good Execution thereof) from falling under 3 *l.* a Hundred, according to the firſt Propoſal.

Which Propoſal, I cannot appropriate wholly to my ſelf; for I took the Hint of it from a very good Friend of mine, who aſſiſted me much in this whole Matter: And he acknowledges to have had the Hint from another Gentleman, who took the Notion from the *Noviſſima Impoſta*, of the wiſe *Venetians*. And the whole Propoſal, for Raiſing the Price of Tin, being occaſioned by *The Venetian, and other Grievances*. The great Effects which may enſue

enſue thereon, to this Nation, muſt be chiefly attributed to the Providence of Him, who can draw the greateſt Good, out of the greateſt Evil.

And I ſhall be more glad, than ever I was ſorry, for my Misfortunes, by thoſe means, if they may contribute any thing to the future Happineſs, Intereſt, and Honour, of my Native Country.

But it muſt ſtill be remembered, That the firſt Buyers will cauſe the Price of Tin to fall, for the future; if they be not prevented, by ſuch a Bound, as the Providence of Almighty God ſate to the encroaching Sea, *Hitherto thou ſhalt go, and no further.*

POSTCRIPT.

HAVING finiſh'd *The Propoſal for Raiſing the Price of Tin*, I have Thoughts of writing another, To advance the Trade of *Lead* and *Fiſh*; *Tin*, *Lead*, and *Fiſh*, being the Principal Commodities of this Kingdom, next to the *Golden Fleece.*

And if we will raiſe this Kingdom, by Art (as it is in Nature) above all other Nations, it muſt be by the principal Means of thoſe Commodities: And not by ſuch Projects, as the World may imitate, and ſtill leave us *As we are.*

FINIS.

Page 5. line 30. for *Tax*, read *Tare*.
P. 10. l. 13. for *Vaſt Quantities*, read *Great Quantities of Tin*.

BUT ſince thoſe Miſtakes were committed, I have been informed, by Mr. *Murry*, That Sir *John Buckworth* gave him a Copy of an Account, which he had taken out of the Dutch *Eaſt-India* Company's Books; and by that Account, it doth appear, That the Dutch did not import ſo much *Eaſt-India* Tin, in 20 Years, as *Cornwall* produced in One.

And now, if the firſt Buyers do not deal with the labouring, and adventuring Tinners, as the Dutch deal with the King of *Perah*, and his People; we may Raiſe, Conſume, and Export, vaſt Quantities of Tin: For it is undeniably known, that our Tin is good for many Uſes, which the *Eaſt-India* Tin is not.

And if the *United Provinces* will unite with us, to tranſport Tin to the *Indies*, &c. inſtead of importing it from thence: And if they will take our Tin, in Barter, for thoſe Commodities which they furniſh our Armies withal, (as they very well may, conſidering what we have done for them, from the 1ſt of Queen *Elizabeth*, to this time;) they may very much advantage us, and themſelves too; And the better enable our Great Invincible, and Victorious KING, to carry on a Vigorous War, in their Favour, and Defence, and in Behalf of the whole World.

IN ſhort, there is as much difference, in all Reſpects, between *Engliſh*, and *Indian* Tin; as there is between *Bratanac*, and *Tutenac*; as the *Phœnicians* called the One, and as the *Indians* call the Other.

And as we improve the *Quantity*, the *Quality*, and the *Price* of our *Tin*, by *Induſtry*, *Honeſty*, and *Art*; We may raiſe this *Moſt High and Mighty Nation*, to its third and laſt Degree of Grandeur, and call it (as it may come to be) *GREAT BRITIN*.

TO THE
KING,
AND
KINGDOM.

Henry the VIII. of this Great Nation,
Began the Famous *Reformation.*

His Daughter, Queen *Elizabeth*,
Finish'd the Second, er'e her Death.

And now the KING is almoſt Riſe,
To cut the Third out to the Life;

And raiſe this Nation to that Stature,
For which it was cut out by Nature.

And 'twas the Nature of our *WHITE TIN*,
From whence it hath the Name of *BRITIN.*